



2016 TOWN OF FAIRFAX

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016
7:00 PM**

The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written to an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

Selectboard Members Present: Tom Fontaine, Chair, Randy DeVine, Leebeth Ann Lemieux and Duane Leach.

Staff Present: Colin Santee, Recreation Director, Deborah Woodward, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Amy Sears, Utility Manager and Amber Soter, Zoning Administrator.

Public Present: Michael & John Kirkpatrick and Robbie Rodimer.

Call to Order: Tom called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Minutes:

1.4.16 - Leebeth motioned to accept the minutes as written seconded by Randy. The motion passed, vote 4-0.

Orders & Payroll: Randy reviewed the warrants for the town and Duane reviewed the utility department warrants, which were approved by the Board.

Public Comment/Correspondence: Michael Kirkpatrick is a Boy Scout here this evening to witness the Selectboard meeting as part of the steps towards earning a Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

Amy Sears, Utility Manager

Amy handed out a copy of the current water and sewer rates to the Board members. She feels that there should be a raise in the rates especially to the water rate. The base operations and maintenance fee has been \$13.00 since at least 2005. She based the 2016 budget on \$18.00 per unit. She feels that there should be an increase to the usage rate. The current rate on usage is .045 and she proposes to raise it to .048. She gave an example of what the increase would look like on an average bill. The following motion was made:

Randy moved to increase the water rates from the current operations & maintenance base fee of \$13 to \$18/unit and the current rate on usage of .045 to .048. The motion was seconded by Duane. The motion passed, vote 4-0.

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Amy Sears, Utility Manager Cont.

The sprinkler system at 15 Old Academy Street was discussed. Mr. Handy would like to connect to the town water supply for the sprinkler system but not for drinking water. Amy has been working on an application permit for a sprinkler system (Fire Suppression/Sprinkler System Application Permit). The current water ordinance does allow for a sprinkler system. The only thing different is that the other properties on a sprinkler system are also on municipal water.

At the current time, Amy doesn't charge a new account until a CO has been issued. As it's a sprinkler system and not an allocation, she would like to start the billing process once the State Fire Marshall has signed off on the system. The Board agreed with this. Amy will make some changes to the permit and have the Board review the final application.

Amy informed the Board that a part-time employee has filed a "report of injury" with the department. She will submit the w/c form to VLCT.

Amber Soter, Zoning Administrator

Amber handed out a year-end report for the Zoning Department. The DRB has been busy with meetings and hearings. The PC has been working on the solar ground generated bylaw for solar siting which is also leading to some regulations revision. Section 248, of Act 250, permits town's to create their own solar array siting standards. Fairfax is a pilot town to create the bylaw. (This only pertains to solar and not wind.) They have been working with the NWRP Commission on that.

Amber presented the Rutland Resolution to the Board. The resolution pertains to Vermont Municipalities regarding the siting of renewable energy projects in certificate of public good (CPG) proceedings before the Public Service Board (PSB). It has become clear that legislative changes are needed to afford Vermont municipalities a greater say in the approval and siting of renewable energy projects.

Therefore, it is resolved by the undersigned Vermont municipalities, to instruct their state representatives and senators to develop amendments to the statutes that concern the siting and approval of renewable energy projects and to the procedures of the PSB in order to ensure that Vermont municipalities have a more meaningful role in the CPG process and to require compliance with appropriately-developed municipal siting standards.

The following motion was made:

Randy moved that we go ahead and sign the siting position of the Rutland Resolution. The motion was seconded by Duane. The motion carried with three members in favor and one member opposed. The resolution was signed by Tom Fontaine, Chair of the Selectboard.

Amber presented business cards for the Board's review. The Board approved the purchase of 500 business cards being paid out of the general office budget.

Amber asked the Board if they were waiving the fee for the shed that is going to be at the town office for storage. The Board by consensus waived the permit fee.

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Other Business:

1. The town has received a notice of benefit charges from the Vermont Department of Labor. A discussion ensued on how the Board would like to proceed with the claim.

Motion: Duane moved that we dispute the claim seconded by Randy. The motion carried with three members in favor and one member recused.

2. A budget meeting has been set for Monday, January 25 at 7 pm.

3. Deb Woodward, TC & Treasurer reviewed the articles for the warning.

4. Tom will work on the \$ amount needed to budget for trash/recycling.

Adjourn:

8:44 PM: Randy moved to adjourn; seconded by Leebeth. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Stacy Wells, Adm. Asst. to the Selectboard.

Tom Fontaine, Chair
Fairfax Selectboard
TF/sw